

Feline FAS Sedation – Pain Algorithm



CAT PRESENTS FOR EXAMINATION

FAS 0-1

Cat is relaxed or has subtle signs of FAS, readily accepts toys, treats, attention.



FAS 2-3

Cat is fidgeting, has difficulty settling, little to moderate interest in toys, treats, attention.



FAS 4-5

Cat shows little to no interest in treats, toys, and/or attention. Freeze, flight, fight response.



Continue with the examination as long as the cat remains relaxed. If cat begins to resist...

Proceed cautiously if cat struggles for more than 2 seconds, stop and give the cat a break

Or reschedule for another day and prescribe pre-visit pharmaceutical (PVP)

Cat stops struggling

Cat continues to struggle

Sedate

Alprazolam 0.125–0.25 mg/CAT PO OR
Lorazepam 0.25–0.5 mg/CAT PO OR
Gabapentin 50–100mg/CAT PO
OR Trazodone 50mg/CAT PO

Continue/
complete exam

Consider PVPs for future visits

Please
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Feline Sedation Protocols Healthy Patients

Use lower end of dosage range for geriatrics



FAS 2-3

MILD PAIN

Dexmedetomidine 1-5 mcg/kg IV OR 5-15mcg/kg IM OR
Acepromazine 0.05-0.1 mg/kg IM or IV
with Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IM or IV



Buprenorphine 0.02-0.03 mg/kg IM or IV
OR
Butorphanol 0.2-0.4 mg/kg IM or IV

FAS 3-4

MODERATE PAIN

Dexmedetomidine 5-15 mcg/kg IM, &
Butorphanol 0.2-0.4 mg/kg IM (For moderate to severe pain use
Buprenorphine or a pure mu opioid instead of Butorphanol)



(+/-) Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IM or IV



Buprenorphine 0.02-0.03 mg/kg IM or IV
OR
Hydromorphone 0.05-0.1 mg/kg IM or IV
OR
Morphine 0.05-0.2 mg/kg IM

FAS 5

SEVERE PAIN

Dexmedetomidine 20-40 mcg/kg IM with Butorphanol 0.2-0.4
mg/kg IM, OR 0.02 mg/kg Buprenorphine IM (For severe pain use
pure mu opioid instead of Butorphanol or Buprenorphine)



+Ketamine 1-2 mg/kg IM or 5-10 mg/kg IM for anesthesia
OR Tiletamine-Zolazepam 1-2 mg/kg IM



Hydromorphone 0.05-0.1 mg/kg IM
OR
Morphine 0.05-0.2 mg/kg IM